

NEWS RELEASE

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Two More Indicted in Meth Conspiracy

Rock Island, IL – A federal grand jury today charged two out-of-state men with participating in a methamphetamine distribution conspiracy in which four have already been charged, as announced by Rodger A. Heaton, United States Attorney for the Central District of Illinois.

The indictment charges Justin William Kreiser, 32, of Mesa, Arizona, and Gregory Paul Price Jr., age and address unavailable, with conspiracy to distribute and possession with intent to distribute 500 grams or more of methamphetamine and with possession of 500 or more grams of meth with intent to distribute. The indictment alleges the two men conspired together and with others from May 2005 to about October 21, 2005, to distribute methamphetamine.

Danielle Price, Gregory Price's wife; Donald Lee Lucas Jr.; Miguel Andres Barajas; and Steven Wayne Peacock were charged in the Central District of Illinois by indictment on November 17, 2005 with conspiracy to distribute and possession with intent to distribute 500 grams or more of methamphetamine and with possession of 500 or more grams of meth with intent to distribute. Jury trial for the four is currently scheduled on April 10, 2006, in Rock Island. Pending trial, the four defendants remain in the custody of the U.S. Marshal.

According to the affidavit filed December 29, 2005, in support of a criminal complaint against Kreiser, he allegedly supplied methamphetamine to Danielle Price, Lucas, Barajas and Peacock. The four defendants were arrested in Henry county, Illinois, following a traffic stop by Illinois State Police on October 15, 2005, on eastbound Interstate 80. During a search of one of the vehicles, officers allegedly recovered approximately five pounds of methamphetamine. Subsequent lab analysis determined that 1775 grams was 100% pure methamphetamine, while the remaining 431.7 grams was 98% pure meth.

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The affidavit further alleges the four were driving two vehicles from Arizona, returning to Michigan, and that Danielle Price's husband, Gregory Price, had arranged the trip from jail. At the time, according to the affidavit, Price was incarcerated in the state of Michigan for a probation violation.

The charges are the result of an investigation by the Drug Enforcement Administration and Illinois State Police with the assistance of the Sheriff's Department for Van Buren county, Michigan, and is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney John K. Mehochko.

If convicted, the offenses of conspiracy to distribute and possession with intent to distribute methamphetamine and possession with intent to distribute each carry a statutory penalty of 10 years to life in prison. However, if the defendant has a prior felony drug conviction, the penalty increases to 20 years to life imprisonment.

Members of the public are reminded that an indictment is merely an accusation; the defendants are presumed innocent unless proven guilty.

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